

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 10, 2006, at 5:45 p.m., in closed session for a discussion on the situation in Afghanistan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 10 at 11:30 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to consider the nomination of Dirk Kempthorne to be Secretary of the Interior.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session on Wednesday, May 10, 2006, at 10 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hear testimony on "Fostering Permanence: Progress Achieved and Challenges Ahead for America's Child Welfare System".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 10, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing on nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Wednesday, May 10, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct an oversight hearing on Economic Development in Indian Country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 10, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed Business Meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Modern Enforcement of the Voting Rights Act" on Wednesday, May 10, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

WITNESS LIST

Panel I: The Honorable Wan J. Kim, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Panel II: Robert B. McDuff, The Law Offices of Robert McDuff, Jackson, MS; Gregory Coleman, Weil Gotshall & Manges, Austin, TX; Natalie Landreth, Attorney, Native American Rights Fund (NARF), Anchorage, AK; Frank B. Strickland, Partner, Strickland Brockington Lewis, Atlanta, GA; Juan Cartagena, General Counsel, Community Service Society of New York, NY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee of Public Lands and Forests of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 10 at 2:30 p.m.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony of the following bills: S. 906, to promote Wildland Firefighter Safety; S. 2003, to make permanent the authorization for Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Agreements; H.R. 585, to require Federal land managers to support, and to communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with, designated gateway communities, to improve the ability of gateway communities to participate in Federal land management planning conducted by the Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior, and to respond to the impacts of the public use of the Federal lands administered by these agencies, and for other purposes; and H.R. 3981, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out certain land exchanges involving small parcels of National Forest System land in the Tahoe National Forest in the State of California, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to Mike Campbell, a fellow in my office, during the debate on S. 1955.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VITIATION OF ORDER WITH RESPECT TO S. 1042, S. 1043, S. 1044, AND S. 1045

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order of November 15, 2005, with respect to S. 1042, S. 1043, S. 1044, and S. 1045 be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMEMORATING THE DEDICATION AND SACRIFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 472 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 472) commemorating and acknowledging the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who have lost their lives while serving as law enforcement officers.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I join in introducing a bipartisan resolution to designate May 15, 2006, as National Peace Officers Memorial Day.

This is the tenth year running that I have been involved in the introduction of this resolution to keep alive in the memory of all Americans the sacrifice and commitment of those law enforcement officers who lost their lives serving their communities. For 8 years I introduced this resolution with my old friend and our former colleague Senator Campbell, a former deputy sheriff who was a true leader on this issue. Now I have teamed with Senator SPECTER, another former prosecutor, in this worthy cause. We have all witnessed firsthand the risks faced by law enforcement officers every day while they serve and protect our communities.

I also want to thank each of our Nation's law enforcement officers for their commitment to the safety and protection of their fellow citizens. They are the real-life heroes; too many of whom too often make the ultimate sacrifice. It is important to support and respect our state and local police officers and all of our first responders.

Currently, more than 850,000 men and women who guard our communities do so at great risk. Each year, one in 16 officers is assaulted, one in 56 officers is injured, and one in 5,500 officers is killed in the line of duty in the United States every other day. After the hijacked planes hit the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001, 72 peace officers died while trying to ensure that their fellow citizens in those buildings got to safety. That act of terrorism resulted in the highest number of peace officers ever killed in a single incident in the history of our country, and is a tragic reminder of how important it is for the Congress to provide all of the resources necessary to protect officers in the line of duty.

In 2005, 156 law enforcement officers died while serving in the line of duty, well below the decade-long average of 169 deaths annually, and a major drop from 2001 when a total of 237 officers were killed. A number of factors contributed to this reduction including better equipment and the increased use of bullet-resistant vests, improved

training and advanced emergency medical care. And, in total, more than 17,500 men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice.

In the 108th Congress, we shepherded into law a number of measures to make a difference in the lives of all police officers and the communities they serve. We improved the Justice Department's Public Safety Officers Benefits program by making law the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act, P.L. No. 108-182, which allows survivors of public safety officers who suffer fatal heart attacks or strokes while participating in nonroutine stressful or strenuous physical activities to qualify for Federal survivor benefits.

We also enacted the Campbell-Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act, P.L. No. 108-372, which extends through FY 2007 the authorization of appropriations for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program. This program helps State, tribal and local jurisdictions purchase armor vests for use by law enforcement officers.

Incredibly, President Bush has proposed significant cuts to the bulletproof vest program in his fiscal year 2007 budget proposal, but I will work with other Senators to make sure the program is fully funded. Bulletproof vests have saved the lives of thousands of officers and are a fundamental line of defense that no officer should be without. I know I am not alone in calling for the Senate to fully fund the bulletproof vest program and I truly hope Senators will agree that it is critical that we provide the funding authorized for this program. Hundreds of thousands of police officers are counting on us.

The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, which Senator CAMPBELL and I championed in the Senate, was signed into law, P.L. No. 108-277. This measure established national measures of uniformity and consistency to permit trained and certified on-duty, off-duty or retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms in most situations so that they may respond immediately to crimes across State and other jurisdictional lines, as well as to protect themselves and their families from vindictive criminals.

National Peace Officers Memorial Day will provide the people of the United States with the opportunity to honor the extraordinary service and sacrifice given year after year by our police forces. More than 20,000 peace officers are expected to gather in Washington to join with the families of their fallen comrades. I hope all Senators will join me in honoring their service by passing this important bipartisan legislation.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the resolution introduced by Senator LEAHY and others to recognize May 15, 2006, as "Peace Officers Memorial Day. Peace Officers work tirelessly to protect our society from criminals who would prey on the weak and innocent. They are the front line

in a battle for justice and the rule of law. They often are unheralded heroes, whose simple act of going to work puts them in harm's way for our sake.

Tens of thousands of police officers were assaulted last year, and that number is likely to be similar this year. It is important that we take a moment to recognize the crucial service they provide.

Last year, 156 police officers were killed in the line of duty. Justice for the families of slain officers often comes slowly. I have introduced legislation that would speed up the process for the most hardened of criminals, those who murder police men and women. The Law Enforcement Officers' Protection Act would guarantee tough punishment for criminals who murder or assault police officers. Part of the legislation is named after Dr. John B. Jamison, a Coconino County, AZ Reserve Sheriffs Deputy who was slain while responding to a fellow deputy's call for assistance. The killer fired 30 rounds from an assault rifle into Deputy Jamison's car, killing him before he could reach for his gun or even unbuckle his seatbelt. He is survived by two children. State courts completed their review of the killer's conviction and sentence in 1985. Federal courts then delayed the case for an additional 15 years. One judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit even tried to postpone the killer's final execution date on the alleged basis that that killer was wrongfully denied State funds to investigate a rare neurological condition that his lawyer had learned of while watching television. Deputy Jamison's killer ultimately was executed in 2000—18 years after the crime occurred, and 15 years after Federal habeas corpus proceedings began.

So as we recognize the sacrifice that peace officers make to protect us every day—to protect the streets on which we drive to work, protect the neighborhoods where our children play, protect the stores where we shop, protect the very halls of government where I stand today—I urge my colleagues to help protect the peace officers and bring justice to the families of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for the benefit of the rest of us.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 472) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 472

Whereas the well-being of all citizens of the United States is preserved and enhanced as a direct result of the vigilance and dedication of law enforcement personnel;

Whereas more than 900,000 men and women, at great risk to their personal safe-

ty, presently serve their fellow citizens as guardians of peace;

Whereas peace officers are on the front lines in preserving the right of the children of the United States to receive an education in a crime-free environment, a right that is all too often threatened by the insidious fear caused by violence in schools;

Whereas 156 peace officers across the United States were killed in the line of duty during 2005, which is below the decade-long annual average of 167 deaths;

Whereas a number of factors contributed to this reduction in deaths, including—

- (1) better equipment and increased use of bullet-resistant vests;
- (2) improved training;
- (3) longer prison terms for violent offenders; and
- (4) advanced emergency medical care;

Whereas every other day, 1 out of every 16 peace officers is assaulted, 1 out of every 56 peace officers is injured, and 1 out of every 5,500 peace officers is killed in the line of duty somewhere in the United States; and

Whereas on May 15, 2006, more than 20,000 peace officers are expected to gather in Washington, D.C., to join with the families of their recently fallen comrades to honor those comrades and all others who went before them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) recognizes May 15, 2006, as "Peace Officers Memorial Day", in honor of the Federal, State, and local officers that have been killed or disabled in the line of duty; and
- (2) calls on the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

NATIONAL POLICE SURVIVORS DAY

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 473 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 473) designating May 14, 2006, as National Police Survivors Day.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 473) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 473

Whereas the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Judiciary Square of Washington, D.C., lists on its Wall of Remembrance the names of 17,535 Federal, State and local law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty;

Whereas, in the United States, 1 law enforcement officer is killed every 53 hours, and between 140 and 160 law enforcement officers lose their lives in the line of duty each year;

Whereas, on May 14, 1983, on the eve of the 2nd annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, 10 widows of fallen law enforcement officers came together at dinner to discuss the lack of support for law enforcement survivors;